

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants' Attorney would like to thank Examiner Rozanski and his supervisor for all the time and courtesies extended during the telephonic interviews of September 23, 2009 and during communications subsequent thereto. The pending claims were discussed in light of the prior art; and although Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiners' rejections, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have further amended the claims herein. The Examiners agreed that the claims as presented herein would be in condition for allowance.

It is submitted that the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment in the instant Office Action does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. Finally, nothing in this amendment should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this amendment, and the amendment of any claim does not signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In summary, claims 1, 2, 5-11, 15-32, 35-44 and 46-48 remain in the application. Claims 3, 4, 12-14, 33 and 34 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. It is submitted that, through this Amendment, Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims is now in a condition suitable for allowance. Should the Examiner believe otherwise, it is submitted that the claims as amended qualify for entry as placing the application in better form for appeal.

Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, he is cordially invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 7, 2009